CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for providing a bid manager, comprising the steps of:

2   (a)   managing a plurality of projects each including a plurality of tasks;

3   (b)   displaying the tasks associated with each project to solicit bids;

4   (c)   receiving bidder identifiers and bid amounts for each of the tasks; and

5   (d)   displaying a list of the tasks for each project with the associated bidder

6   identifier and bid amount positioned adjacent each corresponding task.

1   2.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of

2   calculating a total bid amount for each of the bidder identifiers, wherein the

3   total bid amount is calculated separately for each project.

1   3.   The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of allowing

2   the acceptance of the bid amounts separately for each task on the list.

1   4.   The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the acceptance is transmitted to a

2   bidder utilizing an electronic mail message based on the bidder identifier.

1   5.   The method as recited in claim 4, wherein a link is included in the electronic

2   mail message for allowing the bidder to access a copy of the acceptance in a

3   database utilizing a network.

1   6.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet, and the

2   link is a hyperlink.

1   7.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the tasks are managed by a project

2   manager.

1   8.   The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the project manager is capable of:
2   providing a plurality of templates for initiating a project; allowing a user to
3   populate the template with task records each having at least one associated
4   task; and allowing the user to select the tasks to be displayed for bidding
5   purposes.

1   9.   A computer program product for providing a bid manager, comprising:
2   (a)   computer code for managing a plurality of projects each including a plurality
3   of tasks;
4   (b)   computer code for displaying the tasks associated with each project to solicit
5   bids;
6   (c)   computer code for receiving bidder identifiers and bid amounts for each of
7   the tasks; and
8   (d)   computer code for displaying a list of the tasks for each project with the
9   associated bidder identifier and bid amount positioned adjacent each
10   corresponding task.

1   10.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2   computer code for calculating a total bid amount for each of the bidder
3   identifiers, wherein the total bid amount is calculated separately for each
4   project.

1   11.   The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2   computer code for allowing the acceptance of the bid amounts separately for
3   each task on the list.

1   12.   The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the
2   acceptance is transmitted to a bidder utilizing an electronic mail message
3   based on the bidder identifier.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein a link is
2   included in the electronic mail message for allowing the bidder to access a
3   copy of the acceptance in a database utilizing a network.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the network is
2   the Internet, and the link is a hyperlink.

1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the tasks are
2   managed by a project manager.

1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the project
2   manager is capable of: providing a plurality of templates for initiating a
3   project; allowing a user to populate the template with task records each
4   having at least one associated task; and allowing the user to select the tasks
5   to be displayed for bidding purposes.

1 17. A system for providing a bid manager, comprising:
2 (a)   logic for managing a plurality of projects each including a plurality of tasks;
3 (b)   logic for displaying the tasks associated with each project to solicit bids;
4 (c)   logic for receiving bidder identifiers and bid amounts for each of the tasks;
5   and
6 (d)   logic for displaying a list of the tasks for each project with the associated
7   bidder identifier and bid amount positioned adjacent each corresponding
8   task.